

## IS LIKE GUESSWORK

ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FORECAST FINAL FORM OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

## PROPHETS ARE ALL AT SEA

Party Leaders Guessing—New Congressional Directory is Instructive Human Document—Plans Made for Great Memorial Bridge.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington—Legislation has been and continues to be a lotter for this winter. The administration, the house and the senate, to say nothing of persons outside of both, have been engaged in one gigantic guessing contest concerning the final form to be taken on by legislation of importance.

The prophet's business has been an arduous and a precarious one this year. Comparatively few of the forecasters are justified in claiming that they are prophets with honor in their own country. The reason for the utter inability of the administration or of the leaders in either house of congress to forecast results, with anything like certainty that their words will be fulfilled, is that the members of house and senate irrespective of party lines have been divided among themselves upon numerous questions of the winter. It has been impossible for the leaders of either party in either house to learn definitely just what following he could count upon in advocacy or in opposition to any of the more commanding measures of legislation.

## The Preparedness Bills.

Take the preparedness bills for instance. During the preliminaries of the framing of preparedness bills in house and senate the two committees of the two bodies charged with the work of preparing legislation were shown to be completely at odds with each other on the matter of the proper handling of the subject in hand. The chairman of the senate committee on military affairs wanted a continental army such as had been suggested by the administration. The leader of the house committee on military affairs was utterly opposed to the plan for a continental army and was in favor of a great strengthening of the militia and a comparatively small increase in the regular army.

It was impossible for anybody to tell which of the two men in charge of things would give way. Today both the house and senate have reported military preparedness bills and while it was thoroughly believed at the outset that they would be radically different in all their provisions there are some few signs of a conciliating of views, but the two measures still are almost diametrically opposed one to the other.

There will be a compromise of some kind between house and senate on the military preparedness bill and it is perfectly apparent that there must be compromises between the two houses on other bills such as those affecting the navy and on some other matters of high importance. In the senate there are many members who favor the plan of the house. So far as is known to the public, the senate has been and still is for the purpose to forestall accurately the outcome on these big defense measures.

In the matter of the resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed liners belonging to belligerent countries, the members of the senate have been divided not into parties but into groups irrespective of party. The divisions in the two houses show no trace of Republicanism or Democracy, but are both marked deeply with the signs of both parties. Old members of congress in their memory have been such a mixing up of party friends and foes on both sides of a question as there has been on this matter which has created such a sensation in the country.

## Prophecies Shattered.

There were supposedly wise men in the senate who predicted within an hour or two of the vote on the Gore resolution, now a matter of comparatively recent history, that the affair was sure to be settled one way or the other. The prophets saw their prophecies shattered within fifteen minutes of their utterance. Some senators voted one way or another, and then made speeches exactly counter to their votes. The whole proceeding was enough to distract the minds of men who tried to get any logical deductions from the course of affairs and from the final vote.

The same condition of things was true in the house when the McLemore resolution finally came under discussion. This was a resolution also intended to warn Americans from taking passage on belligerent passenger ships which had guns mounted for defense. In the house, from hearing the first speeches, a stranger could not tell which was the Republican side of the chamber and which the Democratic. No one could get any idea of what the outcome was to be. What has been true of the matters here discussed is true of half a dozen other bills and measures. This year the leaders of neither party know in advance whether they will be able to lead their flocks into the fold or whether they will break away and make off across the fields.

His Quick Finish.

Mark—My old old aunt had not been dead twenty-four hours when her poor parrot died of grief.

Farks—The poor bird died of grief, I suppose?

Mark—No, poison!—New York American.

Last Plank Weak.

Our Platonist—One home and one country, one purse and one wife; one faith and one husband and one hat all her life.

Wealth Well Distributed.

Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska, the four states bordering on Kansas, can each boast many more millionaires than she, with her less than a dozen, but the Kansas per capita wealth is higher than any of theirs, and Kansas smiles.

Innuendo.

New Minister—This is not such a wide awake congregation as I was told to expect.

Sly Friend—I dare say, you have been preaching to them.

## HAY ARMY BILL WINS

VOTE IN HOUSE IS 402 TO 2, WITH BRITTEN OPPOSING ACT AS "RIDICULOUS."

## PROVIDES FORCE OF 140,000

Measure Would Have Militia of 420,000 Men Under Control of Federal Government—Gardner Amendment Adopted by 204 to 198.

Washington, March 25.—The Hay army reorganization bill, the first of the administration preparedness measures, was passed by the house on Thursday by a vote of 402 to 2. As it was passed by the house the Hay bill provides for a regular army of 140,000 men, an increase of 20,000 over the present authorized strength.

2—A federalized militia of 120,000 men under the control of the federal government.

3—A system of reserves, recruited from retiring members of both the regular army and the militia.

4—A reserve officers' corps of 50,000 recruited from graduates of military schools under federal supervision.

5—Federal pay for officers and enlisted men of the National Guard.

6—Authority for the president and secretary of war to make plans for the mobilization of the industrial resources of the country in time of war.

The two men who voted against the Hay bill in its final form were Representative Bryer of Illinois and Representative Meyer of London, the New York Socialist.

Representative Britten declared that the Hay bill did not constitute a sufficient provision for land defense and asserted that he would not vote for a "ridiculous" measure. The Socialist member said he was opposed to any increase in the standing army.

An amendment by Representative Gardner, which called for a sufficient number of troops to be furnished to the end of two years with the approval of their commanding officials, was adopted, 204 to 198.

The Kahn amendment proposing increase of the army to 220,000 men was rejected, 191 to 213.

## \$7,000,000 FIRE AT AUGUSTA

Area of One and One-Fourth Square Miles in Georgia Ravaged by Flames—3,600 Homeless.

Augusta, Ga., March 25.—Twenty blocks in the residence section of Augusta in charred ruins and the bare walls of six business blocks bear testimony to Augusta's most serious fire disaster of recent years. Upward of 700 houses were destroyed and at least 3,600 persons are homeless. The fire, which raged for more than nine hours, causing a loss estimated at \$7,000,000, was checked after it had crossed Green street.

An area of about one and one-fourth square miles was ravaged by the flames, driven by a heavy gale.

Starting in the Dyer building at Eighth and Broad streets, the fire spread rapidly to "Cotton row," in the heart of the city, where it was whipped around the Empire life building and then by leaps destroyed block after block except the 600 square on Broad street. The flames cut a path from two to three blocks wide for eight blocks on Broad street down to the east boundary.

The flames leaped across Broad street to the south side of Elbert street and cut a path through to Green street.

Many of the residences destroyed were of brick construction. The street railway company, the telephone company and the electric light company suffered heavy losses and service was crippled.

The Chronicle established an office in a job printing plant and was issued this morning. The Herald was issued from a temporary plant.

The Tabern high school building and the Horton grammar school were destroyed.

## DENTIST HELD FOR DEATHS

Son-in-Law of Late John F. Peck, Michigan Millionaire, Found Drugged in New York.

New York, March 25.—Detectives sent to arrest Dr. Arthur Warren Waite in connection with the death of John F. Peck, a millionaire drug merchant of Grand Rapids, Mich., found him in a condition of stupor as a result of an opiate, self-administered. Physicians worked over him to save his life. It was given out that Doctor Waite had taken the opiate to sleep.

District Attorney Swann made this announcement:

"I shall charge Doctor Waite with murder in the first degree."

Mexican Paper is Seized.

El Paso, Tex., March 25.—Police and post guards seized the morning edition of the publication of La Constitution, a Mexican paper published here. La Constitution published an incendiary editorial.

Norwegian Bark Sunk.

London, March 25.—The Norwegian bark Lindfald was sunk on Thursday by a torpedo. Thirty of the crew were rescued and are aboard the Norwegian bark Silas, which is approaching Queenstown.

Cousin of Lincoln is Dead.

Fort Branch, Ind., March 25.—Elijah Lincoln, a second cousin of Abraham Lincoln, died at his home here, aged eighty-four. He often expressed regret that he had never met his illustrious relative.

Defends the President.

Cincinnati, Pa., March 25.—Reverend an attack on President Wilson, Marcus Argenta shot and killed Gustave Seils. He said he believed himself justified in killing any man who attacked the president.

Secretary Lansing Plays Golf.

Pinehurst, N. C., March 25.—Secretary Lansing is spending the greater portion of his time on the links at Pinehurst. He defeated his opponent, Ralph W. Page, son of the ambassador to England, one up, on Monday.

Sees Immigration Menace.

Milwaukee, March 25.—Declaring that immigration has become a most serious problem in the United States, Dr. E. A. Ross, professor at the University of Wisconsin, has recommended restriction of immigration.

Capitulates to Movies.

Saco, Me., recently opened its first theater, although the city was settled in 1623, incorporated in 1713, and obtained its city charter in 1867.

Frisco Clings to Gold.

San Francisco is now the only city using much gold for hand-to-hand circulation. The city has been so long buttressing there a custom which everywhere else in the United States has largely given way before the superior compactness, convenience and safety at carrying bills.

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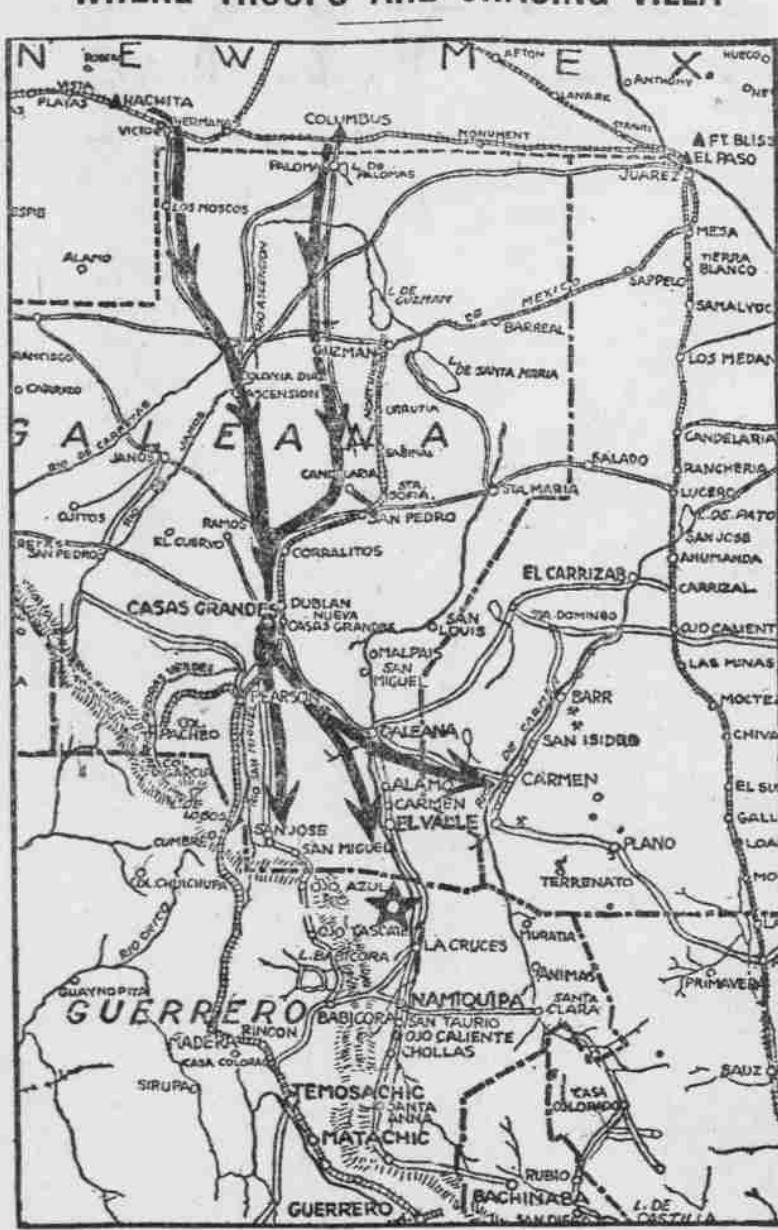
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## WHERE TROOPS ARE CHASING VILLA



## BIG BATTLE IN SKY DENIES PEACE RUMOR

EIGHT MACHINES FALL IN COMBAT AT MUELHAUSEN.

Sixty-five Allied Craft Also Bombard the Belgian Coast Town of Zebrugge.

Basel, Switzerland (via Paris), March 22.—When twenty-three allied aeroplanes raided Muelhausen, Upper Alsace, the greatest aerial battle of the war took place. Accounts just received here declare that more than fifty machines were fighting at such close quarters that the German and allied aircraft had to cease firing to avoid hitting their own machines.

One French airman rammed a German machine, which fell in flames. Five German aeroplanes and three French biplanes, the occupants of all being killed. Even while the allied aircraft were fighting they dropped a number of bombs upon military positions. Many thousands of persons witnessed the combat.

London, March 22.—Sixty-five allied aeroplanes bombarded the Belgian coast town of Zebrugge. All returned.

Zebrugge is on the Belgian coast twelve miles northeast of Ostend. Since the German occupation this port has become of considerable importance, particularly as a German submarine base. It is one of the principal points from which submarine operations in the North sea are directed. The following official statement was made:

"In the early hours of the morning a combined force of approximately fifty British, French and Belgian aeroplanes and seaplanes, accompanied by fifteen fighting machines, left and attacked the German seaplane station at Zebrugge and the aerodrome at Houtteville, near Zebrugge.

"Considerable damage appears to have been done. The machines on the average carried 200 pounds of bombs. All the machines returned safely.

"One Belgian officer is reported seriously wounded.

"All the British machines referred to were naval."

State department officials declared they were resentful of the publication of the above, because, they said, if there was any prospect of mediation it would be damaged if not destroyed.

Washington, March 23.—President Wilson was represented at the White House as being resentful of the publication of stories that Ambassador Gerard had reported Germany was about to make a move for peace. The published reports were characterized as based on inferences. This statement was issued:

"President Wilson, through Secretary Tumulty, authorized a denial of stories appearing in papers to the effect that the purpose of Ambassador Gerard's remaining in Berlin was to await Germany's proposals for peace. There is no justification for that inference being drawn."

Tuesday the state department took notice of the publications by denying that Germany had intimated to the United States that the time was ripe for the United States to make a proposal to renew its friendly offices for peace or that the United States had been informed that Mr. Gerard had been requested to postpone his vacation because of pending peace negotiations.

Unofficial reports received yesterday said the ambassador actually had postponed his vacation, but gave no reason. The state department again took cognizance of the report and the following statement was issued:

"Any suggestion that the German government had intimated that it desired this government to act as mediator in peace negotiations or had in any way suggested formally or informally that this government should take the matter up with other powers is absolutely without foundation and the state department has no information to the contrary."

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Washington, March 23.—The Tillman bill to provide for the erection or purchase by the government of an armor plate factory at a cost not to exceed \$11,000,000 was passed on Tuesday by a vote of 58 to 28.

Previous to passage the senate adopted without a roll call an amendment by Senator Wadsworth providing that any plant to be erected should be located at a place approved by general board of the navy with special reference to considerations of safety in time of war.

German Liners Held Prizes.

London, March 25.—The Hamburg-American line's Prinz Adalbert and Kronprinzessin Cecilie, which were seized at Falmouth at the outbreak of the war, were condemned in prize court as prizes.

Yuan Shih-kai May Resign.

Peking, March 25.—Yuan Shih-kai's rejection of the title of emperor and his decision to maintain a republican form of government may be followed by his resignation. His successor may be chosen by the powers.

Woman and Man Are Found Slain.

Chicago, March 24.—Mrs. Bessie Hejan and Joseph Jernan were found shot to death in the latter's room. The police believe that the woman had killed the man and then committed suicide.

Russ Sink German Steamer.

London, March 24.—The sinking by a Russian warship of the steamship Eperanza off Kail Akra in the Black sea off the Romanian coast, is reported in a Russian dispatch. The crew was captured.

Widow of Col. D. B. Henderson Slain.

Dubuque, Ia., March 22.—Mrs. D. B. Henderson, widow of Col. D. B. Henderson, formerly speaker of the house of representatives, is confined to the Mercy hospital with a fractured right hip bone as a result of a fall.

Postpones Sale of Roat.

Detroit, Mich., March 22.—Judge Arthur J. Tuttle at a hearing in the United States court here on Monday authorized postponement of the sale of the Pere Marquette road from May 6 to July 5.

Four Babies Burn.

New York, March 22.—Four babies were burned to death on Monday in a fire in a day nursery at 47 East One Hundred and Thirty-third street. Six families were forced to flee from the building.

Railroad Earnings Soar.

Washington, March 22.—The interstate commerce commission issued its final report for January, showing that 157 steam railroads of the United States earned during that month net operating revenue of \$77,173,037.

Constantinople.

Constantinople was named after the emperor of Rome, Constantine the Great, and founded in A. D. 325 on the site of the old Greek town of Byzantium. It was also called New Rome, and was the eastern capital of the Roman empire for 11 centuries. Greece was part of the Roman empire of the East, and later the empire was often called the Greek empire. The Greek church preserves its name to this day. In 1453 Constantinople was taken by the Turks, and since then has been the capital of the Ottoman empire. The great church of Saint Sophia was taken by the Turks and is now the mosque of Aya Sophia.

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## FIRE SWEEPS TOWN

2,000 PERSONS HOMELESS AFTER BIG BLAZE AT NASHVILLE, TENN.

## PROPERTY LOSS IS \$1,000,000

Fourteen Hundred Pupils of Warner School Marched Out Before Flames Reached Building—Troops Called Out to Guard Ruins.

Nashville, Tenn., March 24.—More than 2,000 of Nashville's best citizens are homeless and will have to sleep in the houses of their friends, in churches, public buildings and hotels for a while. Fire swept a path from three to five blocks wide and thirty blocks long, about half the territory being the best residence section east of the Cumberland river, on Wednesday. The loss is placed at \$1,000,000. Governor Rye called out all the militia in the city and asked for citizen volunteers to help fight the conflagration.

A seemingly inconsequential fire starting in North Edgefield caused the conflagration in South Edgefield because the high and scattered fire brands from the original fire to a dozen points, some of them a mile away. As the fire approached Warner school, which housed over 1,400 pupils, a fire drill was held and all children marched out safely. Shortly afterwards this school was a mass of ruins.

The aged inmates of the institution conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor were conveyed to a parish church in Nashville. This home for the aged was destroyed, with a large loss.

Thousands of people who thought their homes doomed methodically removed their valuables.

Vast quantities of furniture are now in the open streets, and are being guarded by the militia to avoid looting.

Fifteen thousand residents of South Edgefield looked for the worst, as at one time it seemed as if the whole section would go.

By five o'clock the fire had burned itself out. Nashville's business and charitable organizations are looking after the homeless, and there will be little physical suffering and destruction, if any.

Paris, Tex., March 24.—Provisions, clothing and tents are arriving on every incoming train for the 8,000 homeless persons in Paris, rendered practically destitute by Tuesday night's fire, which did property damage estimated between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000 and which cost at least three lives.

Nearly every business house and between 1,500 and 2,000 residences were consumed in the flames.

Tulsa, Okla., March 24.—Damage estimated at \$1,500,000 has been caused in the fire-swept district of the Cushing oil field.

## AGREE ON TERMS OF PACT

Washington and Mexican Officials in Accord Over the Provision of New Protocol.

Washington, March 24.—A draft of the protocol asked for by General Carranza to govern the operations of the American expedition in Mexico seeking to have the government of the state by Acting Secretary Polk and Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican ambassador designate. It was forwarded at once to Carranza for approval and is expected to be in effect within a few days.

Details of the proposed convention will be withheld until it is signed. It is known, however, that it is designed to minimize the possibility of misunderstanding between the two governments by setting forth the rights of each in the extraordinary circumstances existing and prescribing as far as possible the methods of co-operation to be pursued by the Mexican and American troops in pursuit of the outlaws.

Although the de facto government sought the protocol, its terms are entirely in accord with the views of the United States and no difficulty was experienced by Mr. Polk and Mr. Arredondo in preparing it.

## SHERMAN ASKS VOLUNTEERS

Introduces Resolution in Senate Authorizing President to Call Big Force for Service in Mexico.

Washington, March 24.—Senator Sherman of Illinois introduced a resolution in the senate on Wednesday, authorizing the president to call for 50,000 volunteers for Mexican service. He declared the present force wholly inadequate to cope with the situation. The resolution was laid on the table after Democratic senators objected to its immediate consideration.

British Capture 127 Subsea Boats.

Washington, March 24.—One hundred and twenty-seven submarines have been captured by the British navy since the outbreak of the European war, according to information from the British admiralty.

Serious Quake in Hungary.

Geneva, March 24.—A serious earthquake occurred in southwestern Hungary, according to a dispatch from Flums. At Grizane 110 houses were destroyed and 120 damaged. The damage was estimated at \$200,000.

Sight British Submarines.

Copenhagen, March 23.—A number of British submarines have been sighted south of the Cattegat, says the Dagens Nyheter. The presence of the British war craft off the Swedish coast caused a sensation in Sweden.

U. S. Cruiser Ordered South.

Washington, March 23.—The cruiser North Carolina was ordered from Pensacola, Fla., to the naval base at Guantanamo. Officials said there was no special significance attached to the movement of the warship.

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